

## ***Fire Support***

### ***Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System (AFATDS)***

#### ***Description***

AFATDS is an automated fire support command and control (C2) system that will provide a Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) with the ability to rapidly integrate all supporting arms assets into maneuver plans via a digital, data communications link. AFATDS will automate the fire planning, tactical fire direction, and fire support coordination required to support maneuver from the sea and subsequent operations ashore. The fully functional AFATDS will support the timely exchange of fire support information and target processing essential to survival on the modern battlefield through the integration of all fire support assets, to include: artillery, rockets, mortars, naval surface fire support, and close air support.

The AFATDS program is a multi-service endeavor. The Army is the lead agency, for this evolutionary development approach to move from the current manual, voice communications-linked fire support C2 system to the fully functional system the Marine Corps began fielding in FY00.

#### ***Operational Impact***

AFATDS will be the primary Commanders Fire Support Coordination System employed from MEF to Battery level operations. AFATDS will be used to provide the commander with the ability to rapidly employ all fire support assets at his disposal. This will allow him the flexibility to determine what weapon systems to employ in shaping and dominating his battlespace. AFATDS will greatly enhance the interchange of tactical data between all MAGTF Tactical Command and Control Systems through the use of graphics, common operating applications and communications.

#### ***Program Status***

The USMC AFATDS Program Office adopted the Army's Milestone III in FY 96. The Marine Corps made its Procurement Decision in FY99. Initial Operational Capability was achieved in FY00. Follow on software development will continue throughout the systems lifecycle.

#### ***Procurement Profile: FY01 FY02***

Quantity:	175	84
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#### ***Developer/Manufacturer***

Software — Raytheon Systems Company, Fort Wayne, IN

Hardware — General Dynamics, Taunton, MA